

BACK BY NOON

2012 Saturday Morning Natural History Outings brought to you by
the Southwest Environmental Center

March 10 - Fun with Bugs - 8 am

Ever seen an Apache violin spider? How about a creosote walkingstick? Join former NMSU professor David "Bugman" Richman on the Sierra Vista Trail (west side of the Organs) to learn about the fascinating world of scorpions, centipedes, spiders and lesser known creepy crawlies of the Chihuahuan Desert. Rating: Easy

March 31 - Tonuco Mt. Hike - 7:30 am

Enjoy the best of the Southwest as field ecologist Paul Dulin shows us an abandoned feldspar mine, petroglyphs, and millions of years of geologic time. Please note that portions of the hike will be on relatively steep scree slopes. North of Las Cruces. Rating: Moderate-to-Strenuous.

April 7 - Discovering Local Flora - 8 am

Amateur botanist Lisa Mandelkern will host a guided walk in Mossman Arroyo, just east of Las Cruces, to identify the flowers and plants that characterize the Chihuahuan Desert and make it home for people and animals alike. Rating: Moderate.

April 14 - Circling the Crater - 8 am

Hike the rim of a 300ft. deep volcanic crater without climbing to the top of a mountain. Join NMSU geologist Tim Lawton for a trip southwest of Las Cruces to Kilbourne Hole and a story that goes back over 80,000 years. Rating: Moderate.

April 21 - Birds of the Organ Mountains - 8 am

Come see the variety of birds which make their home in Dripping Springs, led by bird enthusiast/photographer Ken Stinnett. Binoculars are a must! There is a \$3 BLM fee/vehicle. Rating: Easy-to-moderate

April 28 - Medicinal Plants of Dripping Springs - 9 am

Learn of up to 20 medicinal plants on this outing as clinical herbalist Deborah Brandt explains the historical uses of such everyday Organ Mountain plants as Mesquite, Mormon Tea, Prickly Pear, and Juniper. \$3 dollar BLM fee/vehicle. Rating: Easy-to-moderate.

May 5 - Fire and Ecology in the Organ Mountains - 8 am

After a summer of fires, come see how destruction can be regeneration. Wildlife biologist and habitat specialist Pat Mathis will lead us up Pine Tree Trail and illuminate the important relationship between fire and the environment. There is a \$3 BLM fee/vehicle. Rating: Moderate-to-strenuous.

May 12 - Rio Bosque Roundup - 8 am

Desert wetlands; ecological restoration; native birds, animals, and plants; and one really big fence. Wildlife biologist John Sproul will guide us through the El Paso park. Rating: Easy

Advanced reservations are required and space is limited, so sign up early. Be sure to bring sturdy shoes, water and a hat. All trips are open to the public. Most are free for SWEC members and a \$5 donation is requested of non-members



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